

At What Age Is Hand Flapping a Concern ?



As a parent, you may wonder when hand flapping becomes a problem.

First, it's important to note that stimming behaviors like hand flapping aren't necessarily an issue. These behaviors, to an extent, are designed to help kids self-regulate. This means they serve a clear purpose for the child.

However, sometimes stimming behaviors lead to self-harm or serious disruptions to the child's daily life. In these cases, parents may start to worry. Families should keep in mind that most signs of autism are noticeable by the time the child is 18 months old. Some families notice their child missing speech milestones or not picking up on social cues around this period. Hand flapping is another behavior that becomes more noticeable at this age.

Ultimately, hand flapping isn't considered a symptom of autism until age three. And between the ages of three and 11, stimming behaviors can evolve quite extensively.

Parents may choose to consider intervention if their child starts to stim in public or more frequently .

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